

Message Text

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-----085006 121427Z /45
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 230314

FOR WORTZEL FROM SCHMIDT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. PANAM. THE AMBASSADOR'S CABLE ON PANAM'S DECISION TO SUSPEND SERVICE TO BELGRADE WAS VERY HELPFUL IN FORMULATING AN EUR/EB ACTION RECOMMENDATION FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY. WE'VE JUST HEARD THAT CHRISTOPHER ACCEPTED THE RECOMMENDATION THAT WE URGE THE CAB TO DELAY APPROVAL OF THE SUSPENSION OF SERVICES UNTIL OTHER AIRLINES HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY TO TAKE OVER THE ROUTES. YOU SHOULD BE RECEIVING SOMETHING FURTHER ON THIS FRONT CHANNEL. INCIDENTALLY, PANAM ARGUES THAT SERVICE TO BELGRADE IS UNPROFITABLE BECAUSE THE ROUTE STRUCTURE DOESN'T PERMIT SUFFICIENT AIRCRAFT UTILIZATION, NOT BECAUSE THERE ARE TOO FEW PASSENGERS ON BELGRADE LEG.
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2. IN A RECENT CALL ON ME, YUGOSLAV DCM SINDJELIC PUSHED FOR AN INVITATION FOR SERBIAN PRESIDENT STAMBOLIC IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. HE SUGGESTED JANUARY, WHICH DOES NOT STRIKE US AS THE BEST TIME FOR A WARM RECEPTION. HE SAID THE VISIT SHOULD BE ON THE SAME PATTERN AS THOSE FOR THE CROATIAN, SLOVENIAN AND MACEDONIAN PRESIDENTS.

WE ARE INCLINED TO LET THE CURRENT RASH OF VISITS PASS

BEFORE SETTING UP ANOTHER ONE, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE YUGOSLAVS WILL EXPECT US TO TURN OUT ALL THE HIGH OFFICIALS YET AGAIN. BUT WE'RE THINKING ABOUT SUCH A VISIT AND WOULD LIKE YOUR VIEWS ON TIMING AND HANDLING.

3. WE ARE DELIGHTED TO REPORT THAT BILL PRIMOSCH HAS JOINED US TEMPORARILY THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR. WHILE THE YUGOSLAV DESK WILL SEEK TO MONOPOLIZE HIS TIME AND ENERGY, WE EXPECT TO USE HIS SERVICES ON SOME NON-YUGOSLAV MATTERS AS WELL. INCIDENTALLY, BILL CALLED THIS MORNING FROM CLEVELAND TO SAY THAT HIS FATHER HAD DIED. BILL SAID HE HAD BEEN ILL FOR SOME TIME, BUT IT WAS NEVERTHELESS A SHOCK. CHRISTOPHER

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